

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on April 14, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 39, 40, 42, 47-49, 51, 54-56, 58, 61-63, 66, 68,69, and 72 are amended; as a result, claims 39-72 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 39, 41, 43, 45, 46, 48, 50, 52, and 53 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Prince (U.S. Patent No. 5,431,775).

Independent claims 39 and 48 are amended to include elements similar to the elements of the allowable claim 40. Thus, the amended claims 39 and 48 are also allowable. Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 39 and 48 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 39 and 48 and their dependent claims 41, 43, 45, 46, 50, 52, and 53 be allowed.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prince.

Claim 44 depends from claim 39. In view of the amendment to claim 39, claim 44 is allowable. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 44 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claim 44 be allowed.

Claims 55, 57, 59, 60, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 70 and 71 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prince in view of Gaul (U.S. Patent No. 5,618,752).

Independent claims 55, 62, and 68 are amended to include elements similar to the elements of the allowable claim 40. Thus, the amended claims 55, 62, and 68 are also allowable. Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 55, 62, and 68 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 55, 62, and 68 and their dependent claims 57, 59, 60, 64, 65, 67, 70 and 71 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 40, 42, 47, 49, 51, 54, 56, 58, 61, 63, 66, 69 and 72 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 40, 42, 47, 49, 51, 54, 56, 58, 61, 63, 66, 69 and 72 are rewritten in independent form. Thus, these claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH E. GEUSIC ET AL.

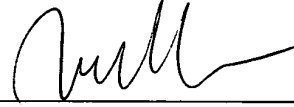
By their Representatives,

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7-14-03

By



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O.Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 14th day of July, 2003.

Name

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